

Halifax - Sunday, March 23, 2025

Dear Nico Mara-McKay,

Because I've been housebound with Covid since St. Patrick's Day, I was advised not to attend the ArQuives Community Ties conversation on Tuesday. Nevertheless, I'd like to say hello to all of you assembled.

Many thanks to **Dan MacKay** who put my name forward as someone to take part due to my work as a novelist in historical (and nostalgic) fiction that features queer characters (among many others) integral to the plotlines.

While living in Toronto in the 1980s until 2004, I became aware of Dan's work as the publisher of **Wayves**. Whenever I'd come home to visit, I'd eagerly look for a copy to inform me about LGBT life in my home province. When I returned to Nova Scotia, Dan purchased a few of my travel articles for Wayves as it had morphed into an *online* newspaper. That was an appreciated 'welcome home' gesture for me as a freelance writer.

Dan recently pitched me as a writer to a local publishing house which is interested in producing a book about **nightlife** in Halifax since 1965. While I am in the early stages of discussion with this company, it has been suggested that a minimum of one chapter be devoted to the LGBTQ+ community and its 'after dark' venues over the past 60 years. The Halifax book will follow the template of **Vancouver After Dark** (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2019).

When the time comes for me to put pen to paper, so to speak, I know an invaluable resource will be Dan's online **Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia**, which he initiated in 2000. It details people, places, events, and other things of interest to our community.

Dan told me he planned on bringing along a copy of my second novel, **Uncommon Sons**, to show you on Tuesday. It takes place in Halifax in 1935-36 at a large railway hotel. A first-generation Lebanese Nova Scotian man is the dining room manager who is romantically involved with a married waiter. But when two bodies are found in a guestroom, suspicion about the deaths is pointed to employees who don't quite fit the mold of White, heterosexual, Haligonians. To be gay in those days meant losing your job, or jailed, and/or being ostracized from your family.

Archives are necessary and increasingly important to any fiction or non-fiction writer who wants to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community is truthfully represented in his, her or their writing. I'm sorry I can't be with you for the Halifax event, but I wanted to thank you and acknowledge Dan MacKay for the invitation.

I wish everyone well in their archival endeavours!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce Bishop

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